

Capsule Summary

Survey #: AA 814

Burwell House  
1319 Bay Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1899

Private Residence

The Burwell Cottage was the summer home of prominent black families in Washington and national African American history. It is a large, two storey colonial style house with an enclosed porch encircling four views. The house is a striking piece of architecture by its own merits and it also contributes to the development of an architectural design theme in this black town.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Burwell House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1319 Bay Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

VICINITY OF

Annapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

Anne Arundel COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Burwell Associates, Dr. Hartford Burwell

Telephone #: 523-3523

STREET &amp; NUMBER

4230 19th Place N.E.

CITY, TOWN

Washington, DC

VICINITY OF

20018

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County

Liber #: 1754

Folio #: 295

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Anne Arundel Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AA-814

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Burwell House is a large two storey colonial cottage. It has an exterior chimney and is constructed of wood frame resting on a pier foundation. It has an L-shaped plan with a corresponding enclosed porch which encircles all views. A room has been added to the second storey and the house is finished with clapboard siding with contrasting trims.

The Burwell House is located in Highland Beach, Maryland in a block that is bounded by Bay Avenue on the north, Bruce Avenue towards the east, Douglass Avenue on the south, and Walnut Drive on the west. The house is situated on lot with sparse but large vegetation. It is on a large corner lot and lies about ten miles southeast of Annapolis.

The Burwell House rests upon a high, pier foundation which is camouflaged by an extensive latticework boarding. The northern and eastern views are almost identical on the first storey. The house is entered by a rectangular doorway at the top of four steps. The porch on the northern view is about twelve bays wide and enclosed with screening. Doric columns can be observed on the interior of the screened porch. These columns support the shed roof on this house. The facade of the northern view is two bays wide and houses windows that are double hung with six lights and a pane.

The second storey of the eastern side exhibits an exterior brick chimney. The roof line is varied in this view where the shed roof dormer, the slope of the mid section of the house, and the gable end of the principal wing of the house can be seen. Double hung windows are discernible on this two bay facade. Two windows flank the chimney suggesting that the windows and the chimney were constructed at the same time. The four windows on the second storey of the northern view are symmetrically placed on this facade. The eave of the gable is extended beyond the trim of the windows on this house.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> EHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Haley R. Douglass to be resort community in the late nineteenth century for prominent blacks. Highland Beach is a unique, existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions took place within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This town provides us with a concise history of design, space planning, and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

The Burwell Cottage was once owned by Charles Douglass, the son of Frederick Douglass. It exhibits a style of architecture, the colonial, that was replicated by a few other homes in the community. It is one of the three original houses in the settlement and thereby contributes to the establishment of a design theme as well as a standard of quality in the community. The exact date of construction is not known. Most residents of the beach constructed their homes over several years.

All of the cottages in the town that were constructed prior to 1930 are important elements related to black town planning and design. It is important that these houses retain their originality in terms of plan design, lot orientation, interior decoration, and architectural aesthetics in order to preserve the concept of space and the dynamics of community development in this historic black town.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-814

see "Highland Beach" Survey Form.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 6, Lots 1,2,3  
Subdivision - Highland Beach

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

April, 1982

ORGANIZATION

Morgan State University

DATE

444-3225

STREET & NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

21239

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Cardella Burwell Smith  
1319 Bay ave

1+2+3 (6)

AA-814

Charles R. Douglass      1920

To WILL

Haley G Douglass & Evelyn D. (Wife)

To Deed                      9/29/29                      FSR 70   149

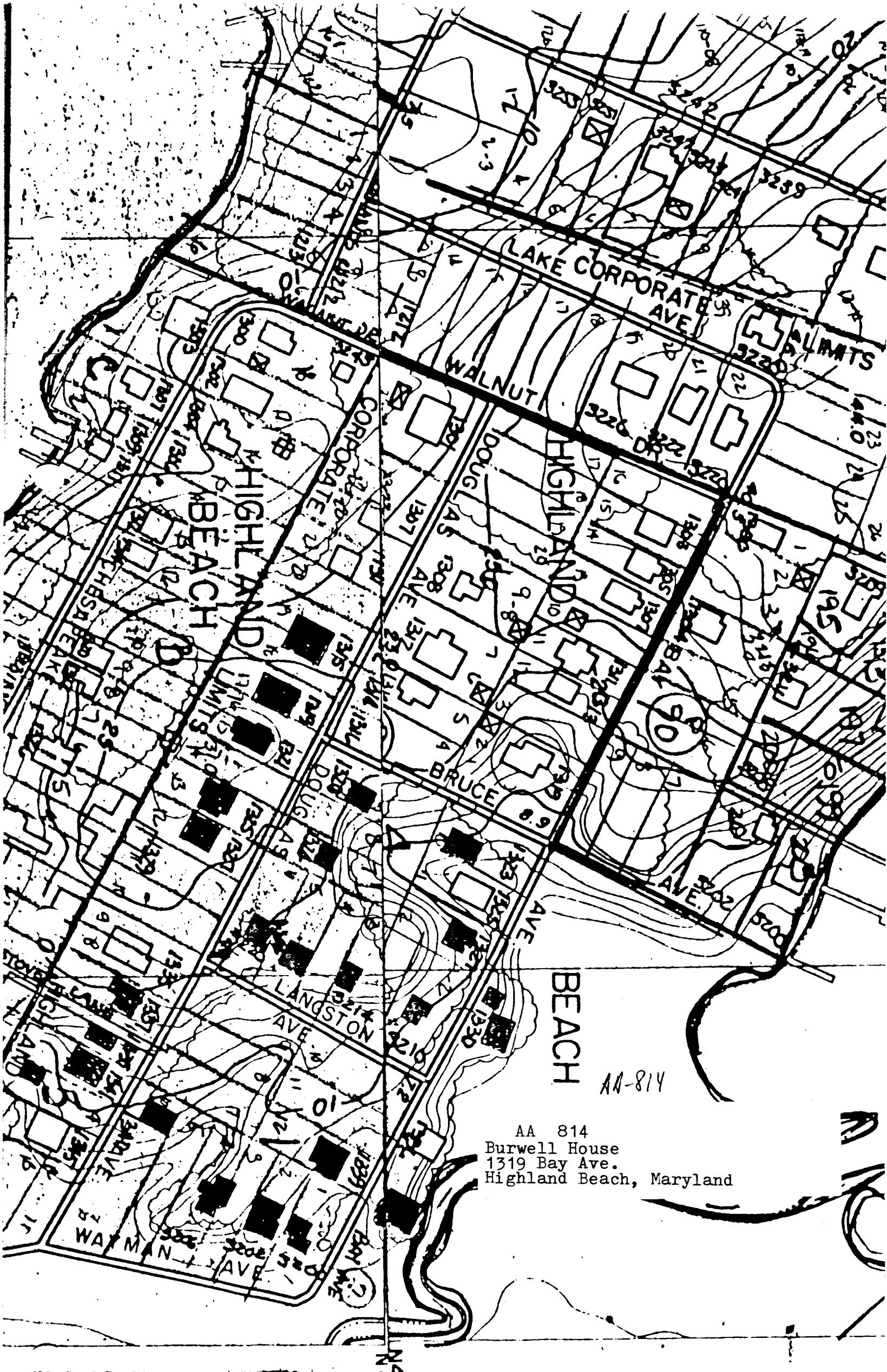
Catharine G. Brooks & Carroll A. (Husband)

To Deed                      9/29/38                      FAM 188 324

Hartford Burwell & Annie M. (Wife)

To Deed                      3/19/64                      1754   295

Burwell Associates



BEACH

AA-814

AA 814  
Burwell House  
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AA 814

Burwell House

1319 Bay Ave

Highland Beach, Maryland

General View

Fern Eisner, Photographer

March, 1982



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Burwell House  
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General View  
Fern Eisner, photographer  
March, 1982